

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00001 080244Z

70

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-04 EB-07 DODE-00 CG-00 DOTE-00

AID-05 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PM-04 /064 W

----- 011881

R 012305Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4641

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS SUVA 001

EA/ANP FOR SQUIRE AND NELSON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS OEXC PFOR (GN)

SUBJ: VESSELS FOR GILBERT ISLANDS

1. NABOUA RATIETA, CHIEF MINISTER, GILBERT ISLANDS, WILL BE IN US ON IV GRANT JANUARY 9-31. HE WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON TO BEGIN PROGRAM JANUARY 12. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS SECRETARY, KEITH O. SHIPLEY (BRITISH CITIZEN).

2. IN LETTER DATED DEC 30 TO CHARGE, SHIPLEY ON BEHALF OF RATIETA REQUESTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS BE MADE FOR CHIEFMIN TO TALK ABOUT PURCHASE OF DEFENSE SURPLUS MATERIALS WHILE IN WASHINGTON. GILBERTS PARTICULARLY REQUIRE REPLACEMENT TO PRESENT TRAINING SHIP, A YUGOSLAVIAN ADRIATIC CRUISE SHIP BUILT IN 1949. CHIEFMIN IS AWARE OF PURCHASE BY GOVT OF FIJI OF TWO MINESWEEPERS, AND HOPES SIMILAR ASSISTANCE CAN BE EXTENDED TO GILBERTS.

3. MARINE TRAINING SCHOOL IN BETIO, TARAWA, IS IMPRESSIVE OPERATION THAT TRAINS ABOUT 300 MERCHANT SEAMEN ANNUALLY, MANY OF WHOM END UP CREWS OF HONG KONG-AND EUROPEAN-FLAG MERCHANT SHIPS. REMITTANCES FROM THESE MEN (ABOUT AUSTDOLS 1 MILLION PER ANNUM) ARE IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN GILBERTS BUDGET. TRAINING SHIP IS IMPORTANT THEREFORE NOT ONLY TO SCHOOL BUT TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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4. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO ASSIST
GILBERTS IN THIS MATTER, EITHER THROUGH MILITARY OR AID
CHANNELS.
HALL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY EQUIPMENT, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SUVA00001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760006-0109
From: SUVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760191/aaaadctn.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: castelsl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2004 by barnescd>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by castelsl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VESSELS FOR GILBERT ISLANDS
TAGS: MASS, OEXC, PFOR, GN, US, (RATIETA, NABOUA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006